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Nationalist Chinese in Burma-III

Former U.S. Envoy Says Our Anti-Comm Alliance Is Periled by Arming Insurgents

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WASHINGTON—The American ambassador to Burma, David M. Key, resigned in August, 1951, denying that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency had anything to do with supplying arms to Kuomintang bandits in north Burma.

Key, now living in this city, has since declared:

"I had heard persistent reports that Americans were taking part (in provisioning the bandits). I found that hard to credit, but learned differently later."

Last week Key stated definitely that "the C.I.A. gave supplies to Nationalist Chinese in Burma, and didn't inform me."

He said he "can only hope" that the activity has stopped for "it has endangered our relations with Burma and, in fact, our whole Southeast Asia positions."

He referred to the KMTs as "common brigands" and called our help to them "a terrible blunder" that has so far been "kept under the rug" in this country, but is well known in Asia.

The apparent purpose of the plan, was to maintain a base

from which the Nationalists could invade China from the mainland, instead of landing on the shores opposite Formosa. However, no possibility for such invasion has appeared.

It is widely recognized that the C.I.A. works closely with the Formosa intelligence agency run by Lt. Gen. Chiang Ching-kuo, eldest son of President Chiang Kai-shek.

It is from Chiang Ching-kuo's network of agents inside Red China that the C.I.A. learns much of what goes on there.

In view of this relationship, it is difficult for some to believe that the supplies and even recruits which have been regularly airdropped to the Burmese KMT outlaws were sent without the C.I.A.'s knowledge, for to contend otherwise is to say that the estimated thousand-plus U.S. intelligence agents in the Far East are grossly incompetent, and few would so characterize them.

Some go farther than that and agree with Burmese Premier U Nu that without American support the Formosa government "would be just waffs and strays" and that it would not dare engage in such a ticklish operation without U.S. leadership.

U Nu said, in Feb. 25

press conference, that he possessed evidence that the American-made supply planes regularly sighted over the KMT-controlled section of his country had been refueled at bases in Thailand of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. SEATO is the "military security" pact of the region.

This brings up the oft-broadcast Red Chinese charge that the CIA has assigned some of the KMTs to regroup in Thailand and then move north to assist Gen. Phoumi Nosavan's private anti-Communist army in Laos. The U.S. has been backing Phoumi against the neutralist forces of the Laos premier, Souvanna Phouma, and against the Communist Pathet Lao rebels.

As far back as September, 1959, U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield, (D-Mont.), asked how many secret agents the U.S. has in Laos and what they are doing.

Mansfield has also objected to putting CIA men in U.S. embassies disguised as diplomats. It is, indeed, no longer a secret that thousands of intelligence agents have been given diplomatic "cover."

Recently the New York Times discovered a secret U.S. subsidized guerilla training center in Guatemala, to which Cuban refugees in Florida have been flown at night in unmarked planes, presumably to prepare for an invasion of their homeland.

The arms and equipment found at captured KMT strongholds in Burma have been new and American-made. In 1951, says former ambassador Keys, the KMTs marched into Red China in strength with American weapons.

Since then, the Associated Press has reported, "the Na-

a year up to 40 miles inside China to fight Communist outposts."

Last November, according to the New York Times, Communist troops pursued the KMTs 30 miles back into Burma, later apologizing to the government.

Last year, the New York Times also said that "foreign travelers report frequent landings and departures of aircraft from the Chinese-controlled region. They say that an airfield capable of accommodating four-engined planes has been built. The Chinese troops are said to have weapons and vehicles that look new."

In 1953, Burma refused to accept further American military aid because of the government's belief that we were aiding the insurgents. After a four-power conference of Formosa, Burma, Thailand and the U.S., American planes flew 8,000-7,000 KMT troops to Formosa. Burma did not agree to accept further aid until less than two years ago.

Says Key:

"Before 1952 we had a pretty good reputation in that region. Now we are put on the level of the Communists."

"I can't say for sure that the CIA has been responsible for supplying the Nationalists lately, but we are blamed anyway and we could certainly stop Chiang Kai-shek from continuing the scheme, if he is acting without our permission."

All of this is apt to spark renewed demands for Congress for an investigation of foreign military aid programs and for a new role for the CIA, which operates with an estimated \$1 billion-plus annual budget, hidden in the defense budget.